



St Augustine's Catholic College

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Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write to you all at the end of my first week at St Augustine's College. It has been a very full week for me, as you can imagine, with Teacher Development days, assemblies to welcome students (both new and old), a Governors' meeting, a fire drill, and a thousand other items. The welcome has been fantastic, and I'm delighted that I've joined this great school as its Headmaster.

The students are (mostly) looking smart and keen. Long may it continue. They are fortunate to be part of such a strong community, which will not only promote their academic achievement, but give them the personal support they need to thrive as decent young people, who will be a positive influence in the world.

The staff also are looking smart and keen! The College is fortunate to have such a body of committed teaching and support staff – some have given many years of devoted service and hard work to the benefit of the students.

I have based my opening assemblies on the school's foundation motto, which is on the Foundation stone at the front of school, as well as on the school crest. In English: **To the Greater Glory of God.** In Latin: **Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam.**

I have used the initials of the Latin version of the motto – **AMDG** – to stand for what I believe is important about St Augustine's College.

A is for Achievement. The College has a strong ethos of achievement, where the students are encouraged to be the best they can be, to work hard and be positive, and to make progress every day.

M is for Mission. The students genuinely look after one another, and are encouraged to be a positive force for good in the world, standing up for justice and showing mercy.

D is for Discipline. As your children will know, we are very keen on having a disciplined environment. This means high expectations of dress, behaviour, politeness and respect, punctuality, and work. The aim is, of course, self-discipline.

G is God's presence. The College is a Catholic foundation, where we aim to put Christ at the centre of all we do. We prioritise spiritual and moral values, and make time for prayer and reflection.

I hope parents and carers will support the College's intentions and aspirations, as I have outlined them in this letter. I hope to meet many of you at the forthcoming Parental Engagement Evenings.

In order to develop communications with parents and friends of the school, I will soon be starting a weekly Headmaster's blog on the school website. This will provide updates about key events at the College, communicate further information about our activities, and include some of my own thoughts and reflections on life at St Augustine's.

I have been using the following prayer for the start of term in my various meetings with staff and students, and would really appreciate it if you would also join with us in this prayer for God's blessing on the College, its students, and the whole community.

Let us remember we are in the Holy presence of God.

Lord, bless our school and bless us for your service.

Strengthen us in the Faith which leads to truth, the Hope that gives life, and the Love that unites us to you and to each other in this Christian community.

Help us each day to choose good and reject evil, to follow justice and show compassion.

Direct all our thoughts, words and activities always to your greater glory.

Amen.

St Augustine, **pray for us**. Live Jesus in our hearts **forever**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Forster". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Mr D Forster

Headmaster

Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam